ANZA DESERT STATE PARK

(Summary by Kathleen Camilla Wade)

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In order that an outstanding desert portion of California might be preserved for the enjoyment of present and future generations, the Anza Desert State Park was formed early in 1937. It includes approximately 1500 square miles of the California section of the great Colorado desert. This desert, slopes towards the Salton Sea, and there is evidence that this whole area was once completely covered by water.

The Salton Sea and Imperial County form the eatern boundary of the Anza Park, and it extends from Riverside County on the north, to the Peninsular Range on the west, and almost to the Mexican border. It comprises four units, as the Salton Sea, the Vallecito, and the Carrizo deserts have been added to the former Borrego State Park.

Contrary to the popular conception of deserts, supports an amazing amount of plant and animal life. The northwestern unit, Borrego, is perhaps most outstanding in variety of scenery and vegetation, combining species typical of desert, chaparral, and alpine. Central Vallecito has the greatest historic interest, while the northeastern

Salton region and the southern Carrizo section are "bad lands." The first two are essentially valleys, while the latter are colorful open wastes; and oddities of geology and of flora and fauna are found in all.

The northern portion of the park was inhabited by the Cahuilla Indians, and the southern by two Yuman groups. Their culture represents a blending of the influence of their northern neighbors, and of the Colorado tribes.

The park came into history when Captain Juan Bautista de Anza, for whom it is fittingly named, blazed a trail through Borrego on his two expeditions from Mexico, over the years 1774 to 1777. There is evidence, however, that Pedro Fages may have entered the park area in 1772; and it was also Fages who cut a diagonal route through the park in 1782, which was to supersede the Anza trail in popularity.

The Fages route was used by Mexican couriers, American fur men, prospectors, and scientists before 1846, and in that eventful year it saw the passage of United States troops enaged in the conquest of California. American and Mexican gold seekers and parties of scientists conducting boundary and railway surveys filled it between 1849 and 1854. It was used by the first overland mail train, the San Antonio-San Diego line, during the year 1857, at the

end of which the service was taken over by the great Butterfield interprise. The latter sent stages through the park until 1861; but after that time, stories and the two station of Carrizo and Vallecito were all that remained of the undertaking. The latter station has been restored recently.

The Civil War, like the Mexican War affected the park, and the Pages route was used by Union troops and discontented secessionists alike. This great road and the Anza trail are now approximated by good highways, and other roads and well-marked trails now traverse the park area making its interesting features easily accessible to all.

HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

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ANZA DESERT STATE PARK

State Park No. 70

by

Kathleen Camilla Wade

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ANZA DESERT STATE PARK

Because men of vision recognized the need of preserving an outstanding desert portion of southeastern California, the Anza Desert State Park was formed, early in 1937. It includes approximately 1,500 square miles of the great Colorado Desert of California, which covers San Diego County east of the mountains, and all of Imperial County.

Points of evidence that this whole area was under water at some late geological age are: the well defined mark of an ancient beach line on the mountains close to the Salton Sea, the discovery of coral formations, of fossilized marine life, of great quantities of shells, and Indian legends. The Salton Sea occupies the central portion of the Colorado Desert, and all its land slopes toward this lowest point, 273½ feet below sea level.[1] It was formerly known as the Salton Sink. It has been dry in recent times, although there are fugitive references to overflows of the Colorado River having sent water there between 1857 and 1891.[2] Early in 1905 a flood of the Colorado enlarged an Imperial Valley irrigation canal to such an extent that the whole river was flowing northward into the Salton Sink instead of into the

1. G. A. Waring, Springs of California, 14.
2. G. W. James, Wonders of the Colorado Desert, 504.

Gulf of California. The break was closed in February, 1907, and the danger that the newly developed agricultural center of Imperial Valley would be inundated was removed.

The Anza Park is west of the central portion of the Colorado Desert. Its boundaries are, roughly: on the north the line which crosses the Santa Rosa Mountains and divides San Diego and Riverside counties; on the west the Peninsular Range, or the southeastward extension of the San Jacinto Range, which narrows the desert margin considerably toward the south, where it almost touches the Mexican border; on the east the line of Imperial County up to the parallel of the southern end of the Salton Sea where the park broadens east to that body of water. Four units comprise the park, the first the former Borrego[3] State Park, which is an amphitheater of desert beauty walled by the Santa Rosa, the Laguna and the Vallecito Mountains on the north, west, and south respectively, and which merges into the "bad-lands" of the second unit, or Salton Sea Desert. Vallecito Desert makes the third and central unit, and the fourth is the narrow

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3. The name Borrego is often spelled Borego, but the writer feels that the former is correct, since it has a definite Spanish meaning (yearling lamb) which fits with the fact that wild sheep were found in the mountains bordering Borrego. Furthermore, other places in the area bear names which have an appropriate meaning in Spanish.

southern portion, or the Carrizo Desert.

The following description by Charles J. Fox gives a fine birdseye view of the part of the Colorado Desert which is now the Anza Park:[4]

> The southern portion of the great desert the Colorado is quite level, but the northern and northeastern portions are broken by isolated peaks and ranges of mountains, which seem to be a continuation southeastward of the San Bernardino Mountains. They are composed of broken, abrupt, barren rocks, generally almost black from exposure to the weather, though sometimes red, or brown, or of a gray color. They always seem to terminate at the base as if at a shore-line, not only near the depressed basin [now the Salton Sea], but when 1,500 or 2,000 feet higher; the mouths of the gorges and cañons by which they are cut being choked by enormous quantities of gravel, sand and large boulders, as though the torrents which brought them down had been met and checked by the breaking of an ocean swell.
>
> Lower down [in the Vallecito and Carrizo regions] frequently occur long slopes covered with flat small fragments of rock, as regularly laid as a mosaic pavement, and almost as black as ink; then slopes of sand and gravel, and at the bottom of the valley, sand-washes, as they are called, like the beds of ancient rivers, generally quite thickly covered with trees and bushes, varieties of cactus, and other desert growth. These valleys vary from a mile or two to ten miles wide, but all have the same general character: sand-washes rising by gravelly or rocky slopes to the base of steep broken mountains, absolutely destitute of vegetation.

Contrary to the popular conception of desert regions, the Anza Park shelters a surprising amount of plant and animal

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4. C. J. Fox, "The California desert basin," 20.

life, including the more or less usual desert varieties and some rare and unique species as well. The commonest trees in this wild garden are the mesquite, the screw-bean, the palo verde the smoke-tree, and the cotton-wood; and among the most important plants are the ocotillo, the yucca, the agave deserti, and many varieties of cacti. Bushes, grass, and flowers are also plentiful near water sources, and in the spring the lavish beauty of the rosy purple desert verbena, and of the fragrant desert lily, blankets the ground for miles.

The trees are particularly useful as indicators of where wells can best be dug in the dry beds of rivers, and many of them, like other desert plants, furnish the Indians, travelers, and animals with nourishment. The beans of the wide-branched, thorny mesquite make excellent food for man and beast, as do those of its relative, the scrawny screw-bean, which will grow in more alkaline soils. The beans of the smooth, vivid, green skeleton, the palo verde tree, also, are edible. Its lack of foliage is more than compensated for in the spring when it becomes a mass of yellow and red blossoms. The parasitic desert mistletoe contributes its coral berries to achieve a lovely effect, aptly called by the Spaniards "lluvia de oro" (shower of gold). The brilliant dark blue flowers of the smoke tree, or indigo bush, add another hue to the spring wonderland of the desert.

The various names given to the ocotillo, a member of the fern family, are as colorful as the plant itself, "Coachwhip" "Candlewood," and "Flaming Sword." Its whip-like, thorn-studded canes spread from a main stump near the ground and reach a tree-like height of from six to eight feet. For nine or ten months it is dull and lifeless but with the rains vivid green leaves appear on the stalks, which have changed from gray to lavender, and foot-long spikes of tubular scarlet blossoms top each cane. These red streamers dancing in the wind present an eerie but colorful sight by day and give a weird shadow play at night. J. S. Chase, a well-known traveler, gives his impression of this strange plant as follows: "The ocotillo is to me the most striking and characteristic of the desert plants. In it are expressed the desert's intrinsic qualities, its haggardness and gray sterility, its cruelty of thorn and claw, its fierce hot beauty."[5]

Utility, as well as beauty, is common to most desert vegetation. The Indians eat the blossoms of the ocotillo, and use its canes for torches, for these burn with a steady white light when the plant is not in sap. The yucca, which has a cluster of yellow, bell shaped flowers, provides fibers

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5. J. S. Chase, California desert trails, 50.

used in fashioning sandals and nets, and soap can be made from its roots. The agave deserti, relative of the century plant and similar to the Mexican maguey, also contributes workable fibers. When the agave is between twelve and twenty years old, it yields one magnificent yellow bloom, and then dies. These honey-dripping blossoms are a favorite food of the Indians, who make a delightful confection called mescal, by baking the butts of the agave. The cactus aids in the sustenance of the desert dweller, and Anza Park has many varieties of that species. Prominent are the mean greenish white cholla, the deer-horn, and the barrel cactus. Rats often hollow out the stems of the latter in their search for food and water.

Some of the more interesting smaller desert growths are the creosote and incense bushes and salt and gallets grass. Both of the bushes have profuse yellow flowers; the creosote, or greasewood, has small glossy, dark green leaves, and those of the incense are silver-gray. The common, pale salt grass does not furnish much nourishment, but the stiffish, felty-haired gallets is a rich food for livestock. The campomoche insect is sometimes found in the gallets and it is said that it may cause death if it enters an animal's stomach.[6]

The number and variety of the fauna of Anza Park

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6. Chase, California desert trails, 255.

are comparable to its wealth of flora. Among those commonly seen are the deer and wild sheep of the bordering mountains; and, on the desert, coyotes, rabbits, rats, snakes, lizards, turtles, snails, vultures, beetles, scorpions and mosquitoes.

A most interesting desert inhabitant is the scaly, mottled "sidewinder" of the rattlesnake family. He is about two and one-half feet in length, has a heart-shaped head, horns above his eyes, a thin body, and a short tail. His name comes from the fact that he moves in a sidewise, looping manner, leaving a track which provides practically the only means of detecting him, as his coloration matches the sand of his locale. He is very clever at moving backwards and can thus watch his enemy, and strike at lightning speed from this reverse motion. As he does not coil or double before attacking, there is no warning. His venom is not especially dangerous for humans, unless the bite goes untreated. The sidewinder is active only at night, and spends the day sleeping in a pancake shape coil under desert shrubs, since exposure to the sun would be fatal to him.

Although dry, hot rocks would not seem to be logical habitat for soft-shelled, water-filled snail, these mollusks are numerous in the desert. Most of them belong to the smooth, waxy lustered micrarionta family, and one type which was discovered in Borrego Valley, bears the name, Mi-

crarionta borregoensis.[7]

Desert turtles emerge in the spring from a long hibernation. Armies of them can be seen at that season, but by summer they have selected cool burrows in which they spend most of the day. The Indians can forecast the weather by watching them. Although desert turtles are valuable food, they are not usually eaten by Indians unless food be scarce. Coyotes find them tasty, but rabbits are easier to kill.

Indians of two great families have inhabited the area of the Anza Park. Of the Uto-Aztekan or Shoshonean family, the Southern California branch or the Luiseño-Cahuilla group held the northern half of the park area, while the Yuman branch of the Hokan family held the southern part.[8] There are various sub-divisions within these groups, but they represent ethnic units, rather than real tribes. Of the Luiseño-Cahuilla group, those within the park area were the Cupeño in the northwest corner around Warner's Hot Springs, which is just outside the park boundary, the pass and mountain Cahuilla in the upper Borrego area, and the desert Cahuilla in lower and eastern Borrego. Of the Yumans, the Diegueños were in the southwest and the Kamia occupied the

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7. E. C. Jaeger, The California deserts, 70.
8. A. L. Kroeber, Elements of culture, 260. Estimated by the writer from the map on the page.

southeast.[9]

These Indians differed in several respects from other California groups, since they had been influenced, more or less, by the culture of the "southwest," that is, of the region about the Colorado River, as well as by their more typically Californian northern neighbors. Their religion is especially representative of the blending of these two stimuli. To the toloache, or jimsonweed, cult borrowed from the Indians near San Gabriel, they added parts of the dreamed myth-singings of the Colorado. Initiation was a chief feature of this cult, and a decoction of the jimsonweed drug was administered to each young boy with the expectation that it would produce clairvoyant effect during his subsequent dreams. The system of shamans, or "doctors," common to North American tribes was also developed among these two groups. Cremation was their method of disposal of the dead, and, among the Dieguenos especially, a very elaborate mourning ceremony was observed. Painted drawings on rocks found in Grapevine Canyon (Shoshonean territory) seem to have religious implication, although some were evidently mere guide marks. Erosion has obliterated the greater number of lower figures at this

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9. It should be noted that the Cupeño is one of the smallest distinct groups in California, and also that the classification, Kamias is doubtful according to Kroeber.

site, and oxide coatings hide upper petrographs.[10]

The California Indian, excepting the Yumas of the Colorado River, did not practice intensive agriculture, but the Anza Park Indians did plant a few small crops of corn, wheat, and vegetables near water holes. Their main staples, however, were cacti, the beans of the mesquite trees, and acorns in the mountain areas. In general, agriculture and the making of decorated pottery and cactus-fibered sandals are among the "southwest," or Yuma traits, which influenced the Southern California branch of the Shoshoneans.[11] The resulting dualism makes the Anza Park area an interesting field of study.

Anza Desert State Park, as a whole, is a storehouse of scenic beauty and historic interest, each unit having outstanding features in those respects. The naturalist and botanist would probably be most attracted by Borrego, the geologist and lover of true desert desolation by the Salton and Carrizo sections and the historic lore of the Vallecito district affords enjoyment for any visitor.

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10. Jaeger, California deserts, 127. The writer has not been able to determine whether or not this was the Grapevine Canyon within the park since the same name seems to be given to other outside areas. However, this was a Shoshonean development and doubtless examples of it do exist in the park.
11. W. D. Strong, Aboriginal society in Southern California, 49.

The vast wonderland once a terror to travelers, is now easily accessible by modern highways. United States Highway No. 80, from San Diego to Imperial Valley, skirts the southern edge; No. 99 runs north from Imperial Valley along the western shore of the Salton Sea, and two good roads cut through the heart of the desert. Of these the most used is the Imperial highway, which follows the old southern emigrant road, or Butterfield stage route, diagonally through the Vallecito district; in the north a good road cuts through Borrego Valley, en route from Warner's Springs to Brawley in the Imperial Valley. The latter, in part, approximates the old Anza trail. A number of lesser roads and well-defined trails complete the park's highway system.

Water from the wells and springs have transformed Borrego Valley into a productive garden for more than one hundred homesteaders as well as a winter playground for desert votaries.[12] The latter can find much delight there, especially in the charm of the landscape. The level floor of the valley (the dry bed of San Felipe Creek) is covered with ocotillo, sage, mesquite, many kinds of cacti, flowers and blossoming bushes; in all, a blaze of color, out of which rise the impressive rock canyons, each sheltering its own particu-

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12. P. Johnston, "Borrego Valley," 14.

ler flora, ranging, curiously enough, from desert to chaparral to alpine. This striking diversity is possible since even a slight change in elevation produces a climatic condition which prevents the encroachment of one species upon another. The irregular skyline of the high mountains forms a rim for the bowl of beauty.

Borrego is famous as a home of the native fan-leaf palm the only palm indigenous to the United States. In the northwest portion, groves of these majestic trees are found in the Borrego Palm Canyon, Thousand Palm Canyon, Indian Gulch Canyon, Sheep Canyon, and in smaller areas. In marked contrast to their desert surroundings, these canyons have living streams and shaded crystal pools of water from hidden springs, and thus can support a wealth of animal life. In them, picturesque slender palms with their light-green fronds are silhouetted against the colored cliff walls, and the songs of birds are accompanied by rustling of leaves, making these oases ideal spots for reverie and momentary escape from the turmoil of the world. They used to be difficult to reach, but recently the paths up the rocky defiles of their entrances have been improved. A campground is provided northwest of Borrego Palm Canyon proper.

Many interesting places are on the Warner-Borrego-Brawley road. Sentenac Canyon and Grapevine Springs are near

the western portal, and the Narrows is a gorge about three hundred feet wide through which the road passes. Near the center of the basin, and at a convenient distance from the entrance to the mountains, is Borrego Springs, the most important watering place in the area. It has served the Indians, travelers, surveyors, prospectors, and cattlemen on semi-yearly long drives from Sonora and Arizona. An old cabin, about one-half mile from the springs now used, shows the original site, and fragments of Indian pottery reveal that there was once a village at that place. Today there is a postoffice, a school and a well-equipped service station. As recently as twenty years ago the good water was kept buried in a barrel in the center of a clump of bushes.[13]

Another road, in northeastern Borrego, passes through Clark Valley, just north of its painted desert. Clark Dry Lake, a large inclosed basin at the south end of the Santa Rosa Mountains, provides a watering place on its northern side. This well was not used very much in the past and was usually filled with sand, but good water was always obtainable by digging.[14] In the northwestern corner are Coyote Canyon and Collins Valley through which trails lead across the mountains. Near the former

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13. J. S. Brown, Routes to desert watering places, 32.
14. Ibid., 78.

is a small section ofcountry known as Hell Hole, whose intricate mazes have become a death trap for many.[15]

A vast panorama of "bad lands" can be seen to the east of Borrego Valley - first of shimmering, coppery, clay hills and then of the glistening white of Sand Beach which borders the Salton Sea. Closer inspection proves it a very desolate, but fascinating, area. Long stretches of pale, drab, dried salt grass alternate with patches of alkali. Standing out in relief are low, gray atriplex bushes, clumps of sour-smelling suaeda, arrow-weed and stunted screw-bean trees.[16]

This Salton Sea Desert region is mainly one of bold, bare, mountain forms, clay plains, and waterless sand, all of which contain marine deposits. Curiously shaped stones and rocks litter the area between its Seventeen Palm Springs and Borrego Spring. Some of these resemble dumbbells, circular plates, rings, grotesque figures of men and animals; some look like vegetables, fossilized cabbages, for example. The usual belief is that the weathering of iron-stained sandstones caused these formations, but geologists are as yet unsatisfied with this theory.

Even this "bad land" has several springs shaded by small cottonwoods and mesquite. Fish Springs, in an arroyo

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15. Chase, California desert trails, 188.
16. Jaeger, California deserts, 32.

near the Riverside County line, is the northernmost. A few miles southwest is Palm Wash, where a small seepage of water preserves a few palms, and south and east of this oasis is Soda Springs. From here a road goes west to Borrego, passing through Zacaton Springs and Seventeen Palm Springs. There are three other important watering places south of Soda Springs, the first is McCain Spring or Salt Creek, and the other two, Harper's Well and Kane Spring, are just beyond the limits of the park. These springs have different kinds of waters; McCain's slightly carbonated, Zacaton and Soda highly saline, and Seventeen Palms alkaline. Even though it has these resources, the area is still distinctive in its barrenness and in its geological riddles.

The Vallecito (little valley) unit is marked off on the north by the Vallecito Mountains, which separate it from Borrego, on the west by the valley and pass of San Felipe, and on the south by the eastward extension of the Lagunas; on the southeast it merges into the Carrizo region. Not a true desert, it is a long granite and mica slate canyon, broken by deep gullies, or <u>barrancas.</u> It progresses in a stair-like fashion from valley to valley, following the course of Carrizo Creek which flows underground for the most part.[17]

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17. Chase, <u>California desert trails</u>, 247.

The eastern portion of San Felipe Valley lies within the park. Its Indian village disappeared when the natives were forced to move to a reservation early in this century. The old adobe ranch-house has been replaced by a pretentious modern building. The chief fame of the region today lies in its treasure of semi-precious stones.

About four miles south of San Felipe there is an area of several square miles which attracted great interest with a very recent discovery of a grove of about one thousand rare "bleeding elephant" trees. Their name is due to the fact that their twisted limbs resemble the trunks of elephants, and their sap is of a beet-red color. The sap is used in Mexico, their native place in the dyeing industry. A tree of this odd species is seldom over ten feet in height, but the squat trunks often reach about two feet in diameter.

South and east of San Felipe is Scissor's Crossing, so called because of the convergence of the Imperial Highway and the new United States Highway No. 78. To the north of this junction is the extremely narrow Box Canyon, through which autos can barely pass; and to the south is Mason Valley. The latter has an excellent climate because of the proximity of the cooling streams of the Lagunas. Formerly it was the habitat of giant jackrabbits and huge agaves; but, like Borrego, it has been recently settled by hopeful homesteaders.

Eighteen miles from San Felipe is Vallecito, proper, known by the Dieguenos as Hawi.[18] Its springs have made it one of the most important watering places between San Diego and Yuma. It has refreshed all passersby, from the aborigines to the present-day seekers of airplane landing fields. Although it is little more than a water-logged, salt grass swamp, it was, doubtless, a paradise in the eyes of the parched travelers of the past. No large trees grow there, only low thickets of tules, mesquites, cottonwoods, willows, and wiry grass. Something of the desert code is to be found in this sign which G. W. James saw there in 1906:[19]

This Water Is Free
Others Are Kind To You
Be Kind To Others
Behind You
Leave This Trough Full.

Most parties stopped there a day or two, but tombstones bear evidence that some have never left that Mecca. One grave bears this concise inscription: "John Hart, at the age of thirty years, in the year 1867." Two others commemorate a dramatic but fatal quarrel of 1870, when two Texan pioneers shot each other, and their wives buried them here. The surrounding lands are deserted today although some settlers

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18. Kroeber, Handbook, 711.
19. James, Wonders of the Colorado Desert, 448.

did take up lands in the past under the Homestead Act.

East of Vallecito and just south of the highway is another important warm spring, known as Agua Caliente. It is a pleasant, grassy spot, shaded by screw-beans, mesquites, and palms. Mineral mounds have been built up by the water and resemble miniature volcanoes.

The next important oasis is farther east and near the highway, in the Carrizo desert region. It is called Palm Springs (not to be confused with the celebrated resort in Riverside County). Mesquite, arrow-weed, salt grass, sedge, and wire rush, are about the only forms of vegetation there today; not one palm remains.[20] Early accounts frequently mention the ruthless and wanton destruction of these beautiful trees by thoughtless emigrants.[21] In 1906 one optimistic man had a small orchard, vineyard, barley field, a few chicken-houses, and a tent here; all in the shelter of a three-cornered limestone peak.[22]

The Carrizo region is one of barren gauntness, but its remarkable color and geological oddities compensate for the lack of vegetation. Pebbles of mottled granite, jasper, chalcedony, agate, gypsum, also semi-precious stones, are

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20. H. E. Ronsch, Historic Spots, 200.
21. W. P. Blake, Report, 120.
22. James, Wonders of the Colorado Desert, 449.

found in variety of shapes. They cover the ground for miles, and are so smooth that they appear to have been "steam-rolled." They cause a glare, as they are coated with a shiny, fungus growth, known non-technically as "desert glaze" or "varnish."[23] The rays of the sun are sometimes more dangerous in that area than on the open sandy desert since the mountains and hills not only reflect the heat but also shut off the cooling breezes. Flat plates of weathered gypsum as large as dinner plates lie exposed there and also reflect the sunlight. Another queer formation results from salt crystals which develop after rains under the surface of the clay hills, and puff them up, giving them a lumpy appearance, typical of the "bad-lands."

A very fine description of this area is given by Chase, as follows:[24]

> If the gaunt and desolate has a degree of perfection, here surely it is reached. I do not see how Sahara, Gobi, or Arabia could improve on this for rigid nakedness and sterility. One here sees Mother Earth scalped, flayed, and stripped to the skeleton. Yet there is a strange beauty in it all. Cliffs, domes, and pillars of clay in strange and vivid colors - yellow, lilac, rose, green, dark red, ochre, light red, purple - are the commonplaces of this locality. On all sides something novel is constantly coming to sight. Great flakes of clear mineral like plate glass are strewn

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23. Jaeger, California deserts, 33.
24. Chase, California desert trails, 279.

> among the gravel or jut from the sides of canyons, and black pottery-like fragments mingle with delicately tinted blocks of stratified rock that is veined and twisted into curios. The place is like a show.

The Carrizo is swallowed up by the sands of the Imperial Valley desert, but it does provide the water for Carrizo Springs, which are just within the eastern park boundary. A growth of cane, or dark green rush, gives the region its name, carrizo (cane). This, too, was the meaning of the Indian name Ahta, and they also called it Hapawu.[25] As the Vallecito, graves are interesting historical records. One is marked, "Frank Fox, killed 1882." It is said that he was a cattle rustler who was slain while bathing in the creek.[26] Carrizo is about eighteen miles from Vallecito via the Imperial highway, which is lined by growths of ocotillo, yuccas, incense shrubs, sage, sumac and cacti.

The Carrizo unit has many places of interest, including, springs, beautiful canyons, and gorges. Mountain Palm Springs is directly south of Palm Springs and east of Carrizo Springs. Of a similar name, but in the southeast corner of the park, is Mountain Springs, near the Mexican border and Highway No. 80. Its good water issues in a ravine

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25. Kroeber, Handbook, 711.
26. Federal writers' project, San Diego, 121.

near the top of Mountain Springs grade. This spot was once a stage station for a line running between San Diego and Yuma. The scenery from the summit, 3,800 feet above sea level, is breath-taking - the wild rugged mountains and the marvelous panorama of Imperial Valley with the blue haze of the Arizona mountains in the background.[27]

Other noteworthy places in this southeast section are Boulder Park, in the very corner, Alverson or Shell Canyon, Canebrake Canyon, Earthquake Valley, In-ko-pah Gorge, Carrizo Gorge, Garnet Canyon, a painted desert and a petrified forest, and the Coyote or Coral Mountains. The latter are said to be a series of real coral reefs similar to those found in the Atlantic Ocean. Shells and other remnants of marine life are found in these mountains, and oyster beds yield huge specimens, some as large as twelve inches in diameter. There is a deep cleft in the Coyote range, called the Painted Canyon. Its rugged walls and floor are of marble, daubed with vivid colors.[28]

North of the Coyotes is one of the most fascinating spots in the Anza Park, Split Mountain Canyon. It is a gorge

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27. James, Wonders of the Colorado Desert, 408.
28. The writer was told of the Coyote region's peculiarities by Commander A. W. Scott, noted traveler, and also the statement appears in script of his radio broadcast of April 17, 1938.

made by wind and water, and runs between the Vallecito and Fish Creek Mountains. The following is Chase's vivid description of it as he viewed it in 1920:[29]

> Imagine a cauldron of molten rock, miles wide, thrown by earthquake shocks into the complexity of a choppy sea and then struck immovable. Looking down on it one would say that not a stick or a leaf of herbage was there, still less any animal life in that sterility of vermillion [sic], ochre and gray. Life there is of both kinds, but so scant that it is merely the scientific minimum, almost more theory than fact.

He remarked that the highwwalls, which shut in the white sandy floor, impart a sense of dread and chill, despite the burning sun. About two years before he saw it, a terrific sandstorm had obliterated the remarkably clear fish-filled pools of its floor. One-half from its southern end lies a field of holes from which concretions have been dislodged, leaving outlines which resemble tracks of prehistoric animals.

Through this chasm have trod many seekers of a legendary treasure galleon said to have been wrecked along the ancient beach line which marks the Fish Creek Mountains. Another example of supreme optimism was the erection of a large white stucco hotel near there. It has since been abandoned.[30]

Just outside the bounds of the park there are cer-

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29. Chase, California desert trails, 256.
30. P. Johnston, "Split Mountain," 36.

tain sites which are essentially linked by history and proximity to the story of the Anza area. Such places are Warner's Ranch, Jacumba, the Salton Sea, and Imperial Valley.

Warner's Ranch in the valley of San José, just outside the northwest corner of the park, has had great importance as a resting place, trading post, and stage station, and today is a popular resort because of its beneficial springs. It was granted to an American, Jonathan Trumbull Warner (known later as Juan José), by the Mexican government in 1844. He became a Mexican citizen, and lived on the land grant with his family until 1857, when a Cupeño attack forced them to flee. The aboriginal title to the springs had not been questioned until recently. In 1900, the United States Supreme Court upheld Ex-governor John S. Downey's title to them, and in 1903 the Indians were removed to Palá.

The town of Jacumba is on Highway No. 80 and just one-half mile from the Mexican border. Once a stage-station, it is now a popular spa for residents of Imperial Valley, who have summer cabins in the Anza Park mountains north of it. It was settled by a McKane family, from Texas, who made a living by caring for the needs of travelers. The old days were far from peaceful, as Indians were wont to raid livestock, and desperados and outlaws found the legion close to the border an ideal rendezvous. Later it was the headquarters for the

United States border patrol, or "line-riders," whose function it was to prevent the entrance of aliens, criminals and smugglers. Place names in the neighborhood suggest that there were a good many of the latter. There is a Smuggler's Spring south of Mountain Springs, and a Smuggler's Cave immediately below the border.

The Indians were evicted from Jacumba, and now live south of the border. They call the springs at their new site Jacumba, and the original ones Jamati.[31] Earthquakes have caused deep rock fractures at Jacumba Springs which allow the hot waters to escape, and a small area of lava is found one-half mile to the north.

The whole region south of the Salton Sea and east of the park was once a worthless waste of open desert relieved by a few water-holes and the indefinite channels of the New and Alamo rivers which rarely carried any water, although their courses extend from the Colorado River to the Salton Sink. In 1896, the California Development Company was incorporated to bring water to the area. A canal was built, utilizing the Alamo channel, and irrigation by the force of gravity, as envisioned by Dr. Wozencroft of San Bernardino sixty years before, was begun in 1901. The result has been

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31. Waring, Springs, 45.

the extremely productive Imperial Valley of today. The valley is not likely to suffer again from flood as in 1905, for the Boulder Dam controls the Colorado and the great new All-American canal is being constructed south of Imperial Valley. Highway No. 99 runs north to the Salton Sea Desert and makes Sandy Beach and the outboard motorboat races easy to reach. The sportsman will find good duck hunting on the southeast shores. This is the region of the bubbling mudpots or "volcanoes," and the hot gas wells of the desert produce that phenomenon known commercially as "dry ice."

Such is a sketch of the most important places of Anza Park and its environs, but this portion of the Colorado Desert is not of interest for scenic natural beauty alone. It is also rich in historic lore.[32]

Francisco Ulloa, at the head of the Gulf of California, in 1539, was perhaps the first white man to look upon the region. It is very probable that he as well as Hernando de Alarcon, on the Colorado River in September, 1540, and Melchor Diaz, there later in the same year, caught a glimpse of the distant California mountains. In the seventeenth century, two other Spaniards on the Colorado, Juan de Onate in 1604, and the Jesuit, Kino, in 1699, possibly, saw the Cali-

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32. H. H. Bancroft, History of California, VI, 68.

fornia desert. Before 1825, Lieutenant R. W. H. Hardy, sent by an English company to investigate the pearl fisheries of the California gulf, was probably the first English speaking person to gaze upon the Colorado desert.[33]

Late in the eighteenth century the need for the establishment of land communication between Sonora, Mexico, and the newly settled frontier of California was to cause Captain Juan Bautista de Anza to cross the desert region which now bears his name. He had long wished to seek such a route and had been encouraged by that intrepid explorer and missionary of the Colorado region, Father Garcés; but a good deal of official red tape had to be untangled before Anza was authorized to start. He had the good fortune to secure an Indian guide, who had just passed through the region now known as the Anza Park. This was Sebastian Tarabal, who had been sent from Lower California to San Gabriel, but had fled from there with his wife and a relative. Although his two companions died during the desert crossing, he managed to reach Yuma, having come southeast through Coyote Canyon and Borrego Valley. From Yuma the Indian chief, Palma, whom Sebastián dubbed Salvador, led him to Sonora, where Anza welcomed, instead of punishing him.

The party of trail-breakers left Tubac on January,

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33. R. Hays, Epitome of the history of Imperial Valley, 1.

8, 1774, and had no great difficulty until after leaving Yuma. Then both Sebastián and Father Garcés, who had been in the region before, lost their bearings in the sand dunes of the open desert. The condition of the animals forced Anza to double back to the south and west instead of going directly northwest through what is now Imperial Valley. Near Signal Mountain (south of the Mexican border) they stopped at Yuha Wells, which they called Santa Rosa. Sebastián felt sure that he knew the way from there, and promised that they would find an excellent water-hole to the north. This prediction was fulfilled at Harper's Wells (just south of the Salton Desert), and in gratitude to the Indian they named the place San Sebastián. The Indians told them of watering places to the east, and also mentioned that soldiers had passed San Sebastián two years earlier. These were evidently the men led by Pedro Fages or the deserters he was pursuing from San Diego, in 1772.[34]

Anza's party turned west from San Sebastián toward the park, and made a dry camp in a marshy bed just before entering Borrego Valley. On March 12 they camped at Borrego Springs, which they called San Gregorio. The pitiful state of the animals and the unusual richness of the forage here

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34.H. E. Bolton, Anza, I, 147.

influenced them to rest a day.

Sebastián tried to make friendly signs to the party of sixty Cahuillas, (or Cajuenches as they called them) who were hunting here, as Anza wished to give them gifts. All of his efforts were useless; since the braying of the pack-mules frightened the natives, and they ran off.

On March 14, they continued their northwesterly route and reached Coyote Canyon, where they camped at a fine spring, Santa Catharina (now Reed's Spring or Lower Willows), where they saw tracks of mules and horses made either by Fages or the deserters, or by horses stolen by the Indians. Anza describes Santa Catharina as follows:[35]

> ... a spring or fountain of the finest water, which runs for about two leagues, having willows most of the way.... Here was found much grass and other green plants, as well as wild vines and trees, which announced to us an improvement in the country from here forward.

The diaries show that all of the members of the expedition were interested in the natives. None were sure of the tribal connections of these Cahuillas, but they were all impressed by their scrawniness, as compared with the robust figures of the farming Colorado tribes. These mountain people lived on game, mescal, pine nuts, and acorns, and used a sickle-shaped stick for hunting rabbits and other small animals. The

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35. Bolton, Anza, I, 150.

men wore agave-fibered sandals, and the women deerskin skirts. The Spaniards called the Indians of the upper Coyote Canyon "Dancers," because of the queer jerky steps and movements they made while talking. The Indians displayed great curiosity all along the way, and showed no open hostility, except that gestures of the Dancer chief seemed particularly vehement; but they were not actually friendly, and only a few came to take any beads or food. The party, after leaving the park area, continued north to San Gorgorio Pass, or the Royal Pass of San Carlos, where they crossed the mountains on March 16.

Father Garcés returned, in the next month, from San Gabriel, accompanied by Sebastián, and followed the Anza trail. At Santa Catharina, the Indians shot arrows into the fattest horse of a loose herd, and although this was the only damage done, Garcés carved a note on the trunk of a willow, as a warning to Anza. From San Sebastián Garcés went southeast across the open desert, instead of going directly south to Yuha Wells. He thus made a short cut, which saved nineteen leagues.

Anza came back early in May, and had three horses wounded by the Santa Catharina Indians. The chief culprit was given a sound thrashing, and then released. He found Garcés' note there, and another one at San Sebastián telling of the short cut. Anza took it also, and reached the Colorado in faster time than Garcés had made, but he suggested that the longer southerly route, avoiding the sand dunes, would be

would be superior for use by heavily loaded trains.[36] In December, 1775, on his second expedition, he made practical use of this theory. His mission was to bring the first colony of settlers for San Francisco, and he divided the party into three groups. The first was under himself and Father Font, the second under Lieutenant Moraga and Sergeant Grijalva; and these two groups were to follow the original route via Yuha Wells, while the cattle and remaining soldiers were to cross the sparsely watered Imperial Valley and meet them at Santa Catharina.

Terrible hardships were suffered by these brave pioneers because of an unusually severe snow-storm, which covered the whole region from the Colorado River to the California mountains. From Yuha Wells they struggled for three days over the rat-hole punctured desert, and reached San Sebastián on December 13. They decided to wait here for the cattle-train instead of going on to Santa Catharina. It seems strange to read of Father Font's complaints of the cold, rain and snow, in this desert region. One of the men in Moraga's division was so badly frozen that they had to bundle him up for two hours between four fires. The cattle had reached San Sebastián before Moraga, but the whole party was reunited on December 17,

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36. Bolton, Anza, I, 177.

and the next day they started for Borrego, making a dry camp before arriving at San Gregorio. At these springs the water supply was very low, and new diggings failed to produce results; so many animals spent a second waterless night, but some of them stampeded and ran back to San Sebastián.

The severe weather continued, and the next morning was so cold that the pious Father Font could not say his mass. Anza went on to the mouth of Coyote Canyon to wait for Grijalva, whom he had sent after the stampeded herd. On the second night the sergeant returned with some of the animals and with a sad story. He had managed to catch some before they reached San Sebastián, but on his arrival there he found about fifty dead in the mires. The stock's habit of drinking too much after a long thirst had already caused Anza to lose many animals, and he was deeply affected by this news. He pushed on, nevertheless, and camped at Santa Catharina on December 23. On Christmas Eve they left the limits of the park, and on that night a baby son was born to Señora Gertrude Linares.

Anza returned, by the same trail, to Mexico, in May of the next year, but he used the short-cut from San Sebastián, as he was unencumbered. He had found the Indians at Santa Catharina still shy, and had taken a short siésta at San Gregorio.

Although Anza was the first white man of whom we

have a reliable record to explore the park area, Pedro Fages may have traversed it before him. H. E. Bolton, notes the following points: the diaries of both Anza and Father Garcés tell the story of the San Sebastián Indians concerning the soldiers, and both also record the sight of horse tracks in the Coyote Canyon. Moreover, Fages' diary says: "Last year (1772) coming from San Diego in pursuit of deserters I went and struck the plain fifty leagues to the east." (In the opinion of Dr. Bolton this would be Imperial Valley or the Colorado Desert). "Lack of water forced us into the sierra ..." Fages does not say where he was forced in, but the aforementioned tracks indicate that it was at Coyote Canyon.[37] Perhaps the discovery of a lost report will some day clear up this interesting point.

In order to maintain the route opened by Anza, two missions were established near Yuma, Concepción and San Pedro y San Pablo; but in July, 1781, the fears which had been responsible for the settlements were realized, as the Yumans rose and destroyed them. Among the victims were Fathers Garcés and Diaz, and Captain Fernando Rivera y Moncada and about fifty of his soldiers, who had remained at Yuma after

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37. These statements have been condensed from Bolton's. In the South San Joaquin ahead of Garcés, 6, 8, and from footnotes to his Anza's California Expedition, II, 338-339,343.

conducting a Los Angeles bound colony that far.[38] Fortunately these emigrants had been sent across the desert in June under Ensign Alferez Limon. When Limon heard the news at San Gabriel, he hurried across the desert to Yuma, but his visit accomplished nothing. He merely witnessed the ruins, was wounded himself, and had to recross Borrego in his weakened condition.

Although a punitive expedition was sent from Mexico under Fages in September, 1781, nothing effective was done and the Anza route fell more or less into disfavor, although it was occasionally used. Fages used it in March, 1782, en route to San Gabriel from Yuma, and stopped at San Gregorio, where he found the pasture very scant. In April, he returned to Yuma, and found San Gregorio in a better condition. While on his second trip back to San Gabriel from the Yuma region, he stopped at San Sebastián, where the natives, as usual, had news. They told him that the San Diego Indians were in a state of semi-insurrection, so Fages decided to go directly there instead of to San Gabriel.[39]

From San Sebastián he went south and east following the dry Carrizo Creek and passing Vallecito. Fages thus blazed

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38. Bancroft, History of California, I, 361. According to this work, Rivera's arrival instead of pacifying the already restless Indians incensed them, since his herds destroyed many plants, and he was none too liberal with his gifts.
39. P. Fages, Colorado River Campaign, 92.

an important new route through the heart of the park, which was destined to become more widely used than Anza's northern trail. He gave the name of San Felipe to the valley through which he left the desert and entered the mountains, and said of it, "This location is so well provided with pasture and water, with a superabundance of fine magueys, as well as firewood, that it has the condition requisite for establishing a presidio."[40]

Later, in 1825, this route was rediscovered by Santiago Argüello, comandante of the San Diego presidio, in his pursuit of Indian horse thieves. He entered the park area via the valley of San José, or Warner's Pass; and early in 1826 Lieutenant Romualdo Pacheco was sent to investigate it. The result was its adoption as the official Mexican mail route from Sonora, and it was occasionally used by traders.

It was in the year 1826 that the first American went overland to the Pacific Coast by one of the southwest trails. This was the famous fur-trader, Jedediah Smith, who entered the northern portion of the Colorado desert, as he made his way over El Cajon Pass, near San Bernardino, to San Gabriel.

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40. Pages, Colorado River Campaign, 95. This diary gives no special name for the pass by which he crossed the mountains, but it may have been Warner's since the description of the valley and springs fit that place, and this was the pass used by later parties.

Other Americans were close on Smith's heels in the Pacific southwest. The hunting and trapping party led by Sylvester Pattie of Kentucky and his son James Ohio Pattie was the first to enter the region of the old southern emigrant road. These Americans trapped for several months around the Gila and the Colorado, and in February, 1828, crossed the desert and went to Lower California. Here they were arrested by Mexican authorities and taken to prison in San Diego.[41]

The first record of American use of the Pages route, or the old southern emigrant road (the two were the same as far as the area within the park is concerned) is in the year 1831 by the David E. Jackson trapping expedition sent out by the Jackson, Waldo and Young fur company. J. T. Warner, from Connecticut, came with the party, and at that time made his way over the pass which was later to bear his name. In the same year an English scientist, Thomas Coulter, arrived at Monterey by sea, and between March and July, 1832, he used this route on a trip from Monterey to the Colorado and back.[42] He was the first to collect the screw-bean tree in San Felipe Canyon.[43]

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41. The writer has been unable to determine their exact route from James Ohio Pattie's Personal Narrative, but it must have been a southwesterly one to Lower California, and if they entered the area at all, it was probably in the Southern part of the Carrizo region.
42. Bancroft, History of California, III, 406.
43. Jaeger, California deserts, 187.

Perhaps one of the most sensational and exciting trips through Vallecito was made in 1834 by a Mexican courier, Rafael Amador, who was carrying dispatches from the dictator Santa Anna, rescinding earlier orders which had replaced Governor Figueroa with José Miguel Hijar. Although his equipment, most of his clothes, and his horse were stolen by the Yumans, he made his way across the scorching desert, and he was almost dead by the time he reached Misión San Luis Rey (not far from Warner's). It is said that his reward was 5,000 dollars.[44]

One story, out of the many tales on the subject, sets the year 1837 as the date of the discovery of a fabulous mine by the mysterious Peg-Leg Smith, who was guiding a party across the desert. He claimed to have found outcroppings of gold ore in black quartz rock near three hills. His samples were later proved real gold. When he returned he could not find the site, and prospectors have been seeking it ever since throughout the Anza Park area. Scores of lives have been lost in this quest, which received fresh impetus in 1861 or 1862 when a prospector arrived in Los Angeles with 7,000 dollars of nuggets taken from some part of the Anza Desert. He died while guiding a party back. Chase tells of seeing a caricature

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44. James, Wonders of the Colorado Desert, 97.

of Peg-Leg Smith on the door of the old cabin which marks the site of the original Borrego Springs. It was drawn by two twentieth century prospectors who still had hopes.[45] Peg-Leg Smith, the cause of all this trouble, died in a San Francisco hospital in 1866.[46]

The route through Vallecito, opened by the Spanish and Mexican soldiers, was heavily traveled in the 1840's by the forces of the United States government, during the campaign of the military conquest of California. The first official crossing was made by Kit Carson with an escort of fifteen men in September, 1846. He was on his way to Washington, D. C., with dispatches; but just before he reached Santa Fé, he met General Stephen Watts Kearny, who was leading the Army of the West to California.

Kearny persuaded Carson to send the dispatches on, and to act as a guide across the desert. Kearny was also responsible for the transit of the Mormon Battalion. This was made up of Mormon volunteers and their families who had been expelled from Illinois, and who proposed to settle in California. These were placed under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Philip St. George Cooke, who was instructed to carry out the

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45. Chase, Desert trails, 206.
46. Bancroft, History of California, III, 172-173. Bancroft also notes that it was reported that Smith was in the California desert region as early as 1829, but there is no reliable proof.

very difficult task of making his own wagon road, and thus follow Kearny.

Before leaving the Colorado Kearny intercepted a Mexican courier and learned that a counter-revolution in California nullified many of the earlier gains made by Frémont and Stockton. It was with this discouraging news that the troops left the Colorado in November 25. Their choice of the old southern emigrant road, aside from being the most convenient, was also good military strategy; since they could now block the main stream of Mexican traffic.

Each day Lieutenant W. H. Emory kept a diary and Captain Abraham Johnston kept the official journal of the campaign. Emory noted that Carrizo Creek was reached on November 28, and that a little water was running in it for about two miles. He makes the first printed record of the discovery of the Washingtonia palm, at the head of the Carrizo Creek Canyon, or Palm Springs.[47]

The long narrow canyon of Vallecito impressed them, as did the painful agave thorns, since their legs were practically bare. The men were in such a starved condition that on November 29 they consumed a horse with great relish. A trail of abandoned animal carcasses lay behind them and the howls of

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47. Jaeger, California deserts, 189.

wolves and coyotes at night kept the exhausted men awake. Anza's concern over the poverty-stricken look of the Indians is repeated by Emory who attributes it to the exposure to the cold. Johnston does not have very much to say about small details but of Vallecito (which he spells Bayou Cita) on November 29, he writes:

> The constant seeing pieces of pottery shows that Indians have traversed it [emigrant road] time out mind,[48]

On December 2 as they approached Warner's they were mistaken for Indians and could see the ranch-hands driving the cattle into the hills. Their journals like those of travellers to follow are lavish in praise of this little oval valley of San José, of its springs, and of the mountain flora, which was a welcome sight after the hardships they had suffered. From here they went on to temporary disaster in the form of a defeat by the Mexican general, Andreas Pico, at San Pascual. The journey of the Mormon Battalion was even more difficult. The young, undisciplined soldiers had been worn out before they had even reached Santa Fé, and they had the tremendous job of getting the wagons across the Colorado River, before they could even start on the desert trek.

Personal experiences as recorded by Cooke, Daniel

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48. United States, House, Executive documents, 41, 611.

Tyler and Henry Standage give vivid accounts of that unparalleled infantry feat. It took the battalion two days to cross Imperial Valley, during which time sixteen of their mules died. On January 16, 1847, they entered the Anza desert at Carrizo, and the first thing they saw was the carcass of a dead wolf in the well. From Carrizo, Tyler describes the condition of the men thus:[49]

> At this time the men were nearly barefooted, some used, instead of shoes, rawhide wrapped around their feet, while others improvised a novel style of boots by stripping the skin from the leg of an ox.... Others wrapped cast-off clothing around their feet, to shield them from the burning sand during the day and the cold at night.

Stray mules delayed them here, and they did not reach Palm Springs until the next day. Cooke notes that there were twenty or thirty palms there at that time. Vallecito did not make a favorable impression, since it was in a swampy condition. Two accounts, one written in the morning and the other in the evening of the day of January 18, during which they were en route from Vallecito to San Felipe, gives us a marked contrast. Of the morning, Henry Standage writes:[50]

> We have nothing but beef and very small rations of that; I was glad, today, to go and pick up the pork rinds that were thrown away by the Colonel's cook, although they were in the sand.

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49. D. Tyler, Concise history of the Mormon Battalion, 245.
50. Ibid., This excerpt is quoted on this page from Standage's journal.

But of the evening of that same day from San Felipe, Cooke says the following:[51]

> The men, who this morning were prostrate, worn out, hungry, heartless, have recovered their spirits tonight, and are singing and playing the fiddle.

Their difficulties were by no means over, for upon reaching Box Canyon they found it was too narrow to allow the wagons to pass. The advance guard stood and looked resignedly at the small opening; but Cooke arrived, picked up an axe, and started to hew out the rocky side with all his might. His enthusiasm and determination were contagious, and soon all of the men took axes and hammers, and started to work. By taking the wagons apart and tilting them they managed to get them through; the last two passed without being dismantled. On January 29, the force reported to Kearny at San Diego.

The conquest was completed on January 9, at the battle of Los Angeles, and the Anza desert played a part in the aftermath. From the diary of Benjamin Hayes who came into California in 1850, by the old southern emigrant road we learned:[52]

> Warner says, there is another road across the Desert, going up close to the Mountains on the eastern side (the Anza trail) -- the same by which the Mexican general, Jose Maria Flores, retreated out of California in the year 1847; it is easier of ascent, but has not much water on the sandy part, as has the one we came by.

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51. P. S. Cooke, Conquest of New Mexico, 187.
52. B. Hayes, Pioneer notes, 54.

This is illustrative of the fact that the Fages route was used more than the trail blazed by Anza. Flores had chosen it because he knew he would be unlikely to meet anyone.[53]

February of the year 1847 saw another desert crossing by the famous Kit Carson. He and Lieutenant Beale were carrying dispatches to Washington for Frémont. Their progress was slow, as Beale had been wounded, and Carson had to lift him on and off his mount for twenty days; but he did recover even before the worse of the long journey was over.

Just as the war had brought a good deal of traffic through the park area, the lure of gold and the necessity for scientific boundary surveys kept up the flow for the next period of years. This, like the armies, favored the Fages trail for the most part.

There was a particularly heavy migration of Mexicans, especially from the state of Sonora, to the newly discovered gold fields of California. Most of these used the Anza route, but some went by the southern road. The movement

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53. G. W. Beattie, "Development of travel," 242. From this source we find another interesting note on the Anza trail, as follows: "John McCain, a well known stage driver on the old Butterfield route and now (1926) residing at Julian, San Diego County, is authority for the statement that cattle rustlers and smugglers operating between California and Mexico made use of the old Anza trail through Borrego Valley."

began in 1848 and reached its maximum in 1850 and from that year on friction with the Americans was one of the chief causes of its falling off to virtually nothing by 1854. The Sonorans usually came in squads of fifty or one hundred in the early spring and returned to Mexico in the autumn.[54] A few of them did remain in California; for one, the famous bandit, Joaquin Murietta.[55]

Two records of a party on its way to complete a boundary survey in the Gila region in 1849 give ample testimony of the great number of American gold seekers who used the southern road. The survey was under the command of Amiel Weeks Whipple and his military escort was under Lieutenant Cave Johnson Couts. Both of these men wrote accounts of their trip eastward through Anza Park.

Whipple gives a particularly detailed account of the Indians; and he was surprised to find the San Felipe women dressed in neat calico frocks and quite good looking, despite the fact that their faces were painted with tar. Whipple seems to have been more aware of the beauties of the landscape

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54. J. M. Guinn, "The Sonoran Migration," 33, No precise record of the numbers is available, but 10,000 a year is the estimate.
55. Ibid., 34. Murietta had come in 1849, as a lad of eighteen, and he worked gold peaceably for a time before starting his outlaw career. His lieutenants were also Sonorans, who had come into California via Anza Park.

than were some of the earlier travelers, and his word pictures are as follows:[56]

> September 21 - (six miles east of Vallecito) The scenery here, by moonlight, was beautiful. The hills in the background, with angles sharp and sides perpendicular, were singular in the extreme. By the dim light it was hard to believe that they were not ruins of ancient works of art - one had been a temple to the gods, another a regularly bastioned fort.... Vegetation in the valley remains unchanged; cacti, maguey, kreosote, (larrea Mexicana) dwarf cedar, and the fouquiera spinosa are abundant.

He also notes the fantastic shapes of the Carrizo hills, and the odd, flat gypsum plates.

The humorous diary of Couts gives a clear concept of the volume and character of the emigrant travel. The gold-seekers consulted the maps of Emory and Cooke daily, and they also continually bothered Couts for information about the road, which he had just traversed. Some of the extracts of his readable account are as follows:[57]

> Vallecito, Thursday, September 20th... One Emigrant is here, mourning over a wrecked wagon, wrecked because there is nothing to pull it. He is a New York Cityite, has a few small tricks in his wagon and sticks to it like grim death... will have to say prayers over it in a few days and quit, has annoyed me excessively, for a couple of cattle...

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56. United States, Congress, Senate, Executive document, 19, 7.
57. C. J. Couts, From San Diego, 10, 15.

> Friday, September 21st... The emigrants continue flocking in.... Have been troubled nearly to death by the emigrants inquiring the route to Los Angeles, and San Diego. If I have made one I have made a hundred way bills for them in the last three days. Left one stuck up on a board for their guidance.

A bit of very unusual desert weather is described by Couts as:[58]

> September 22nd [Just after leaving Carrizo Springs] We had a very severe storm... for about two hours, the most beautiful sight I ever saw... and at five a terrible sand hurricane struck us .... twenty minutes after it commenced raining and hailing... the whole desert was one complete sheet of water.... Whilst the storm was raging, I was setting on my horse with my back to it, until the hail got too severe, when my horse jumped from the effect of an earthquake, and I saw a large opening break into the surface of the earth. Afterward we saw a great many places which had opened the same way.

He continues to complain of the emigrants and give much of human interest in his story, as:[59] "Friday, September 28th... Went to sleep with the emigrants talking to me, no idea when they left..."

Benjamin Hayes, later to become famous as a San Diego judge, came into California during this epoch. His account illustrates the workings of the lucrative ferry business on the Colorado River; but he was fortunate, as a Mexican officer,

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58. Couts, From San Diego, 16-18.
59. Ibid., 24.

a former schoolmate of his, used his influence to reduce the fare for Hayes' party. This officer was the son of the former Mexican emperor, Iturbide, and was in charge of a boundary survey on the Gila. He, too, probably crossed the Anza Desert, as Hayes mentioned that Iturbide was about to leave for San Diego to see the American commissioner.[60]

Between the years 1850 and 1853 the United States boundary survey was completed, and most of this work was done under the direction of John Russell Bartlett. In May, 1852, his corps made its way across the desert from San Diego bound for El Paso. They had difficulty in getting through Box Canyon, and when they reached Carrizo many of their mules ran back to Vallecito, as the sweet Carrizo water did not seem to quench their thirst. At that place they saw the bodies of many thousands of sheep who had either eaten some poisonous plants, or had drunk too much water. Of Carrizo Canyon and its lack of vegetation, Bartlett says:[61] "This was the most desolate spot we had seen, presenting indeed the very climax of barrenness." They met soldiers from Fort Yuma in the open desert after leaving the park. These were pursuing deserters who were heading for Vallecito; and a day or two later a Colonel

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60. B. Hayes, Pioneer notes, 45-46.
61. Bartlett, Personal narrative, 129.

Craig of a Bartlett scouting party was fatally shot in a skirmish with the fugitives. The chase was then pressed harder and a cordon was thrown about the park area. The desert Indians were notified, as was usual in cases of that kind; and, due, to the cleverness of two of these, who disarmed the two criminals by buying their muskets and feigning such great interest in their one revolver that the men let one of them hold it, the criminals were apprehended.[62]

Another group of scientists followed Bartlett into the park area. This was the Robert S. Williamson party of 1853, surveying a possible railway route from the Mississippi to the Pacific. The geologists were under William P. Blake, who was responsible for giving the name "Colorado Desert" to this region; and the surveyors were under Lieutenant Parke. Each of the three conducted a separate party, and each has made very careful reports of his findings. Parke worked on the region west of Warner's but Williamson's territory was within the park mainly on the southern emigrant road; and Blake went through San Gregorio pass, then east and south entering the park desert west of the Salton Sea, and passed

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62. Bartlett, Personal narrative, 144. It is said that they were deserters from the British army. Bartlett also notes that the party of soldiers they had met was under a Lieutenant Sweeney, and the writer feels that his name may possibly be connected with the Sweeney Pass in the lower Carrizo Desert, but has been unable to find any information on this point.

Fish and McCain Springs. He called the latter "Salt Creek." He continued down to Carrizo and then on to Vallecito and Warner's. The Indians said that he was the first white man to go this way through the "badlands" of the northeastern corner of the park.[63] This survey, however, brought no railway through the Anza Desert. Today the Southern Pacific runs east of the Salton Sea, but the San Diego and Arizona Railroad now traverses Carrizo Gorge, north of Jacumba.

Stage coach lines, instead of railroads, were to fill the need of communication and transportation and their story was to become the story of the Anza Desert for the next few years. Yet before the establishment of the first in 1857, two other incidents of interest occurred here. The first was in connection with the attempt, sponsored by Jefferson Davis, then Secretary of War, over the years 1855 to 1856 to use camel trains in the great Colorado Desert. When this proved impractical the camels were dispersed and some probably found their way to the Anza Park, although they were never officially introduced into that portion of the desert.[64]

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63. Beattie, "Development of travel," 241.
64. Stacey, Uncle Sam's camels, 135. Lesley, the editor of this volume mentions that there have been many reports since of wandering camels. He was told of one at Banning in Riverside County, as late as 1928. If they were that far west some probably had also been in the park. The writer has been unable to find any proof, among the accounts available. An article by B. M. Rousseau in the Los Angeles Times of August 24, 1925, (part 3) entitled "Camel Trains in Southern California," might possibly shed some light on this question, but the writer has been unable to obtain it in the time allotted for this summary.

The other intervening incident was the passage along the old southern road of a party of California filibusters early in 1857. It was led by Henry A. Crabb, a lawyer and former member of the state legislature, who sought to take advantage of revolutionary conditions in Sonora and set up a gold-seeking colony there. He had counted on an alliance with one faction headed by some of his wife's relations, but when he arrived a new leader was in complete control. His reenforcements by sea did not arrive in time, and he and his men were shot, although they had surrendered.[65]

Later in 1857 the problem of communication, which had brought the Anza Park into history, again dominated the scene. Then the first overland mail train in the United States began to run, via Vallecito and Carrizo. It was known popularly as the "jackass mail," but formally as the San Antonio-San Diego Line, operated by James Birch and I. C. Wood. Two trains left San Antonio and San Diego simultaneously on the ninth and twenty-fourth of each month at six o'clock in the morning. The time limit was thirty days for the estimated 1,470 miles. Although ridiculed as a road "from no place through nothing to nowhere," this line operated for one year, and its faithfulness in fulfilling its contract paved the way

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65. Bancroft, History of California, VI, 601.

for the establishment of the Butterfield line which was awarded a six-year mail contract at 600,000 dollars a year.[66]

September 16, 1858, coaches left San Francisco and St. Louis at the same time, thus inaugurating the semi-weekly Butterfield service. The line was well equipped with more than one hundred specially built coaches, a thousand horses, five hundred mules and seven hundred and fifty men were employed. The fare was 100 dollars in gold, and passengers were expected to fight Indians, which necessity arose not infrequently. The route went from San Francisco to Warner's, across the old southern emigrant road to Yuma, and on to St. Louis. Its stations were from twelve to twenty-five miles apart, depending on conditions. Two of these were within the park, Vallecito and Carrizo. Timber fragments and crumbling clay are all that remain of the Carrizo edifice, but the Vallecito station was restored in 1934.

This was done because county and fraternal organization officials wished to preserve a landmark which was reminiscent of heroic and violent deeds as well as being the locale for ghost stories of coaches which "passed in the night," even after the Butterfield service was discontinued in 1861, because of Indian depredations in the West, and Confederate

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66. C. H. Heilbron, History of San Diego County, 105-107.

levies on its stock in the East during the Civil War.

Chase gives a fine description of the Vallecito station as follows:[67]

> ... an ample, picturesque building of what at first sight I took to be adobe bricks of the usual kind, but found were blocks of natural sod from the ciénaga [marsh]. It is the only structure of the kind that I know, and the material appears to answer its purpose well, better in fact then adobe. It was interesting to note the rough but solid construction. Not only walls and the square pillars of the verandas, but the roof, was built of sod, in flat bricks about nine by eighteen by five inches. The rafters were of natural pine, unsquared. On this, crosswise, were mats of thin willow poles, interwoven with strips of rawhide now brittle with age. On this, crosswise again, was a layer of tules: then the sods, closely fitted together and cemented and surfaced with adobe mud. A simple mortar was used in the walls and pillars .... The low, round arch is its highest flight, and the style accords with our gentle coast landscape almost as if the building had grown spontaneously from the soil. Though other fashions of architecture are greater, statelier, and more enobled [sic] by the genius and imagination, no other is so natural, so coherent, so familiarly pleasing, in a word, so humane. The old Vallecito station, slowly rounding and crumbling back to its original earth [Chase was there in 1920 before the recent restoration] seems in the same way suited and almost necessary to the place.

It is believed that this station was built in 1851 by James R. Lassiter and John W. Mullins.[68]

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67. Chase, California desert trails, 247-248.
68. Heilbron, History of San Diego, 109.

The Anza Park played a part in the Civil War, as it had in the Mexican War. After Leland Stanford's election as governor in 1861 made the Unionist advocates predominant in California, many Secessionists leaving the State to join the Confederates went via Vallecito. This passage was easiest, in those bitter days, as most of the residents from Temescula, through Warner's and on to Yuma, were Southern sympathizers.[69] However, this was also the route of the California Volunteers who fought for the Union. They used it in 1862 on their way to Arizona, which they wrested from the Confederates who had controlled that territory since 1861.

After the war, the southern emigrant road fell into a disuse comparable to the state of the Anza trail; but both were used from time to time by travelers, traders, prospectors, cattlemen, fugitives, and adventurers. In fact there was sufficient traffic to make it necessary for San Diego County to place guide boards on the important desert trails and especially on the Butterfield route. James A. Jasper, a county supervisor, was responsible for the erection, in 1895, of signs giving directions and distances, and also information about water holes. Today the modern highways are well marked and have convenient resting places, making it possible for all to view the natural beauties and spots of historic interest which abound and are preserved within the borders of the Anza Desert State Park.

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69. O. J. Cooney, "Southern California in the Civil War days," 60.

AUTHORITIES

In order to facilitate further research the materials have been divided into general works, works of primarily scientific interest and works treating of historical events. It should be noted, however, that the general classification, in reality, includes all of the items which do not definitely fall into either of the later two groups, and many of them do contain excellent accounts of scientific and historical import. In short, the classifications are by no means rigid.

I. General Works:

Printed Material

a. Books and Documents

1. Burdick, Arthur Jerome. The mystic mid-region, the deserts of the Southwest. New York, 1904.

2. Chase, Joseph Smeaton. California desert trails. Boston and New York, 1919.

3. El Centro Chamber of Commerce. Entering the new California state desert park via 'El Centro gateway.' [El Centro, 1937?]

4. Federal Writers' Project. San Diego, a California city. San Diego, 1937.

5. Hays, Robert. An epitome of the history of Imperial Valley. [Mimeographed. El Centro?]

6. Heilbron, Carl H . ed. History of San Diego County, San Diego, 1936.

7. Jaeger, Edmund Carroll. The California deserts; a visitor's handbook. Stanford University, [1933.]

8. James, George Wharton. The wonders of the Colorado Desert (southern California) its rivers and its mountains, its canyons and its springs, its life and its history, pictured and described, including an account of a recent journey, made down the overflow of the Colorado River to the mysterious Salton Sea. 2v. Boston, 1906.

9. Olmsted, Frederick Law. California State Park Commission. Report of state park survey of California. Sacramento, 1929.

10. Rensch, Hero Eugene, and Rensch, Ethel Grace. Historic spots in Southern California; the southern counties. Stanford University, 1932.

11. Saunders, Charles Francis. Finding the worthwhile in California. New York, 1916.

12. Scott, A . W .[compiler] Romance of the Highways. (The mimeographed script of a radio broadcast for Sunday, April 17, 1938.) San Francisco.

13. Van Dyke, John Charles. The desert; further studies in natural appearances. 2d. ed. New York, 1902.

b. Periodical Literature

14. Colby, William E . "Borego Desert Park," in Sierra Club Bulletin, XVIII:2. Los Angeles, 1933.

15. Deering, Tam. "Borego Palm Canyon, region desert park site," in Parks and Recreation, XV:5. Rockford, Illinois, January, 1932.

16. Fox, Charles J . "The California desert basin," in Overland monthly, XV:1 San Francisco, July, 1875.

17. Johnston, Philip. "Borego Valley, a desert sanctuary," in Westways magazine, XXVII:4 Los Angeles, April, 1935.

18. Johnston, Philip. "Split Mountain," in Westways magazine, XXVII:5. Los Angeles, May, 1935.

19. Lane, D . R . "State parks, a heritage for all, in MotorLand, XXXII:6. San Francisco, June, 1935.

20. Saunders, Charles Francis. "The California desert as a pleasure resort," in Outlook, CVII. New York, August, 1914.

II. Works of scientific interest:

Printed Material

a. Books and Documents

21. Bartlett, John Russell. Personal narrative of explorations and incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora and Chihuahua, connected with the United States and Mexican boundary commission... during the years 1850, '51, '52, and '53. New York, 1854.
Also of historical importance.

22. Blake, William Phipps. Report of a geological reconnaissance in California: made in connection with the expedition to survey routes in California to connect with the surveys of routes for a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, under the command of Lieut. R. S. Williamson Corps Top. Eng'rs, in 1853... with an appendix containing descriptions of portions of the collections....New York, 1858.

23. Brown, John Stafford. Routes to desert watering places in the Salton Sea region, California. Washington, 1920.
This volume has a particularly fine map.

24. Cory, Harry Thomas. The Imperial Valley and the Salton Sink,...with introductory monograph by William P. Blake. 2nd. ed. San Francisco, 1924.

25. Emory, William Hensley. U. S. Engineer Department. Notes of a military reconnaissance from Fort Leavenworth, in Missouri, to San Diego, in California... made in 1846-7, with the advanced guard of the "army of the west." New York, 1848.
Also of historical importance.

26. Kroeber, Alfred Louis. Elements of culture in native California. Berkeley, 1922.

27. Kroeber, Alfred Louis. Handbook of the Indians of California. Washington, 1925.

28. Mendenhall, Walter Curran. Ground waters of the Indio region, California, with a sketch of the Colorado Desert. Washington, 1909.

29. Strong, William Duncan. Aboriginal society in Southern California. Berkeley, 1929.
This is volume XXVI of the University of California publications in American archaeology and ethnology, which series has several fine monographs on various details concerning the park Indians.

30. Swingle, Walter Tennyson. The date palm and its utilization in the southwestern states. Washington, 1904.

31. Waring, Gerald Ashley. Springs of California. Washington, 1915.

32. Williamson, Robert Stockton, Report of a reconnaissance and survey in California, in connexion with exploration for a